



## Sarah Plummer

Date of Trial:	19 March 1817
Where Tried:	Devon Assizes
Crime:	Stabbing & Cutting &c
Sentence:	Life
Est YOB:	1791
Stated Age on Arrival:	27
Native Place:	
Occupation:	Country Servant
Alias/AKA:	Sarah Wil(l)son (m)
Marital Status (UK):	
Children on Board:	
Surgeon's Remarks:	An industrious but mutinous and turbulent, vile disposition
Assigned NSW or VDL	VDL

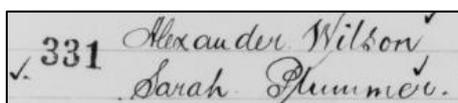
Of all the crimes which led to the transportation of 101 women on the convict ship *Friendship*, the most violent - 'Feloniously stabbing and cutting a Subject of His Majesty, with intent to do him some grievous bodily harm against the Statute' – barely merited a mention in the local Devonshire press - just one line in the *Exeter Flying Post* of 3 April 1817 informed its readers that at the Devon Assizes of the previous month Sarah Plummer had been sentenced to death for maliciously stabbing and cutting Owen Sullivan. There was nothing about the victim, nor the circumstances that led to the attack.<sup>1</sup>

Following the trial Sarah was taken to the County Gaol to await her fate – and it was not to be as awful as initially thought.<sup>2</sup> In fact it was rare for a death sentence to be carried out, especially on women. So, rather than facing execution, the majority of capital offenders were transported, and such was the outcome in Sarah's case. By a memorandum dated 3 May 1817 from Whitehall to the Justices of Assize for the Western Circuit, confirmation was given that Sarah Plummer's sentence had been respited to transportation for the period of her natural life.<sup>3</sup>

Within a couple of months she had been removed from the Gaol, taken up to London with the three other Devonshire convicts (Rebecca Hooper, Mary Stockham and Mary Johnson), and been taken on board the *Friendship*, which was to be her home for the next six months. According to Surgeon Cosgreave, she was an industrious woman, but this was countered by her 'mutinous and turbulent, vile disposition.' On arrival at Port Jackson she was one of the 53 *Friendship* women who were taken on to Hobart Town on the *Duke of Wellington* together with 28 artificers and mechanics (useful people) sent from Sydney to be employed on public works.<sup>4</sup>

At age 27, a country servant by calling who could both read and write, Sarah was now about to embark on her new life far away from home. She was initially assigned to Mr. Humphrey (probably A.W.H. Humphrey, Justice of the Peace and Magistrate, and by 1818 Superintendent of Police).<sup>5</sup> He was known for his harsh treatment of convicts, and so it was an unwise move on Sarah's part, particularly so soon after her arrival, to cross him.<sup>6</sup> On 22 April 1818 she was brought before Magistrate, the Reverend Robert Knopwood on a charge of having disobeyed the orders of Mr. Humphrey her master and was sentenced to one month in the solitary cell on bread and water.<sup>7</sup> No doubt chastened, it was eight years before another offence was recorded on her conduct sheet. In the interim Sarah had relocated to Port Dalrymple, married and had given birth to two children.

The marriage between Alexander Wilson and Sarah Plummer was one of the list of marriages 'solemnized as per Book of Register at Port Dalrymple' by John Youl in 1819. The entries only record the names of the bridal couple, omitting therefore any details as to ages, status and the actual marriage date.<sup>8</sup>



However, we know from his convict records that Alexander was considerably older than Sarah. He had been tried



at the Old Bailey on 26 October 1814. Notwithstanding his pathetic plea of innocence, the detailed proceedings leave no doubt as to the burglar's guilt.

929. ALEXANDER WILSON was indicted for burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling house of George Welch, about the hour of twelve in the night, on the 11th of October, and burglariously stealing therein, two pair of boots value 50s. a pair of boot legs value 13s. an umbrella, value 7s. two pieces of sheep skin, value 4d. two pieces of leather, value 2d. a petticoat, value 1s. a shirt, value 4s. a pair of sheets, value, 15s. a pair of stockings, value 2s. a curtain, value 6d. six towels, value 4s. a handkerchief, value 2s. a night-cap, value 6d. a canvas bag, value 2d. a button-hook, value 6d. a pair of trowsers, value 2s. a shaving box, value 2s. and one shilling, and four pence, in monies numbered, the property of George Welch .

GEORGE WELCH. I live at No. 5, Wilson Street Grays Inn-Lane, in the parish of St. Pancras; I rent the whole house. My house was broken open on the 11th of October; I went to bed about a quarter before twelve; I was the last up in the house. When I went to bed the house was secured; I went into the kitchen the last thing, I have only my wife myself, and lodgers, in the house. I am sure all my lodgers were in the house when I went to bed. The next morning, I got up at half past seven; I was the first up in the house that came down stairs; as I went into the kitchen I saw the kitchen window wide open. I fastened it myself the night before, the last thing; that is the way the thieves got in. They got in at the kitchen window; there is an area at the kitchen window; they had put some instrument between the two sashes, and so opened the window; the window was not broken. I turned my head round, I missed my two pair of boots. I am a shoemaker; I missed my umbrella; a bag of dirty linen was hanging behind the door; they had removed them from their situation. The boots and the bag of linen that had been hanging behind the door were taken away; two shifts, two pillow-cases, a shirt, a pair of sheets, a pair of stockings, a curtain, six towels two napkins, a handkerchief, a night-cap, a canvas bag, a pair of trowsers, and a shaving-box; in one of my waistcoat pockets there were sixteen pennyworth of halfpence, these were all taken away. I saw some of my things the next day in the afternoon, about four o'clock, at Hatton Garden office. I knew them to be my property that had been stolen the night before. I arose about half after seven, it had been daylight then I suppose about an hour.

Q. Did you find any marks in your kitchen of any candle having been used - A. Yes, on the frame of the window; there was a place where a candle had been stuck there, and droppings of tallow all the way down. A candle must have been burning there some time by the appearance of the wood, the wood being all scotched. I found a piece of tallow candle on the ground the next morning, it had been placed on the seat of the window, and had tumbled down underneath it.

Q. You found a piece of candle underneath the window on the floor? - A. Yes; I went to Hatton-garden office, and gave information.

ELIZABETH MARIA WELCH. I am the wife of the last witness. I went to bed before my husband. I heard nothing of the robbery until my husband came up and told me of it. I can only say the same as my husband has said. The articles are his.

SOPHIA MARY LEE. I live at 26, Field-lane. My husband buys and sells old boots and shoes. On the 12th of this month, about half after eight in the morning, the prisoner brought a bag with boots and leather in it; he threw the things out altogether, he asked me if I would purchase them. The bag contained two pair of men's boots and some leather; the boots were almost new, they had not been much worn; a pair of boot legs and a number of women's clothes, and one shirt.

A. Did you know this man before - A. No, not till then. I found amongst them napkins, towels, and stockings. When he shot these things out on the ground, he asked me if I would purchase them, I said I would call my husband down stairs. Mr. Lee came down stairs; he being an officer, took the prisoner into custody. My husband asked him how he came by these things? he said he got them at Highgate. He said he would not tell where. Mr. Lee said, you have stolen them. He then went down on his knees, and said, if he would let him go he would leave them. He was taken to the Compter and afterwards to Hatton Garden office. My husband has kept the things ever since.

Q. Did you go to the office - A. Yes; I saw Mr. Welch claim the things.

WILLIAM LEE. I am a constable of St. Andrew's parish. I live at 26, Field-lane. My girl called me down stairs. I found the prisoner sitting on a chair, the boots and leather were on his right hand side. I asked him what he wanted for the boots and leather? He said a guinea. I looked at him in the face; I knew him. I said you are a thief.

Where did you steal these things? He said he had stolen them, and instantly went on his knees, and begged me to let him go. I said I shall do my duty, you may depend upon it. He then said he found them in a yard at Highgate. He said he should not say any more as I was determined to keep him. I kept the articles, and took him to the Compter. First of all I took him as a city prisoner, afterwards I took him before a Middlesex magistrate. I removed him from the Compter; I searched him in the thigh of his pantaloons; between his pantaloons and breeches I found this tin tobacco-box, with fresh tinder and matches, this knife was in his pantaloons pocket; the back of the knife is jagged with striking a light. In his waistcoat pocket I found this button-hook, this is claimed by Mr. Welch. In his hat I found this silk handkerchief, it is marked with G. W. the initials of Mr. Welch's name. Mr. Welch claimed the things that he shot out of the bag. I then went to Mr. Welch's house, to ascertain how it had been entered. The earth outside of the house is clay; the inside of the wall is about six feet high, and the garden mould fresh dug. I examined the footsteps with the prisoner's shoe. I found on the prisoner a thick pair of nailed shoes. Mr. Read and I applied the shoes to the footsteps on the clay and on the mould; the shoes corresponded with marks of the footsteps. I found no other footsteps than his. It appeared to me it had only been done by one person. I afterwards examined the window; it has a hoop spring catch; it appeared to me to have been opened by pushing one sash up, and pulling the other down, and then sliding this knife between, up it opened the catch; there is the mark of a knife of this side on the window. These things have been in my possession ever since. I produce them.

Prosecutor. I have looked at these things, they are mine; I am quite sure of it.

Q. Look at that handkerchief found in the prisoner's hat. - A. There is my initials G W. upon it. I left it on the sofa the over night, and I missed it the next morning when I came down. The boot-legs are mine, and all the rest of the property. This button hook was in my waistcoat pocket with the halfpence, I am quite sure of that.

Prosecutrix. I have looked at the linen, I know it to be my husband's linen. Some of them have our initials on them. Some I had before I married Mr. Welch, which has the initials of my maiden name.

WILLIAM READ, JUNIOR. I am an officer. I went to the prosecutor's house. I observed a piece of candle had been stuck on the lining of the sash; it had been burning there some time; it is a wonder it had not set fire to the lining of the window. I observed the footsteps; I compared the prisoner's shoe with the footsteps in the mould, and the clay. I could only see one footstep; the prisoner's shoe tallied with the mark of his footsteps.

Prisoner's Defence. I implore your Lordship's forgiveness in taking the liberty to address you. I am evidently with a heart broken down with grief; yet I feel some commiseration that every justice will be done; and if I am correct in the pale of reason, when I say, the charge admits of much doubt. It was my misfortune to pass where the robbers had done the violence. I never committed the act I am charged with. Never in my life did I commit a felonious act that actually has not been proved; this ought to have been done. Am I to suffer for the violent act of others; I expect to meet with that compassion which justice so warmly demands.

GUILTY DEATH, aged 46.<sup>9</sup>

Alexander hoped that his apparently clean record up to then would have some sway over the verdict. But, if he was the Alexander Wilson charged in 1810 with receiving stolen goods, it is likely that his record was only clean because in this earlier instance he was acquitted as the prosecuting counsel declined to offer any evidence.<sup>10</sup>

In fact, Alexander Wilson was one of twenty-three people sentenced to death at the October 1814 Sessions.<sup>11</sup> He was also one of those whose sentence was respited to transportation for life and, in February 1815, one of the male convicts taken aboard the hulk *Retribution* moored at Woolwich.<sup>12</sup> His behaviour during his relatively short time on the hulk was described as 'Very Bad'.<sup>13</sup> Alexander was consigned to the convict ship *Baring*. Delivery from the various hulks commenced in late February 1815 and those from the *Retribution* were taken on board on 19 March. With a full complement of 300 convicts, 122 being 'lifers', the *Baring* sailed on 20 April and arrived at Port Jackson on 7 September. The convict indent provides a description of Alexander Wilson. He was a 42 year old native of London who had been transported to serve a life sentence. He was 5' 3½ tall, with a pale complexion, dark brown hair and hazel eyes. He was also doubly skilled – as a brickmaker and a barber (although it was as a brickmaker that he was subsequently recorded).<sup>14</sup>

The *Baring* prisoners were all disembarked on 15 September and distributed to settlers or assigned to government service.<sup>15</sup> The following month, in accordance with a directive from the Colonial Secretary's Office, on 30 October

thirty-one convicts – mechanics and labourers – were sent per HM Colonial Brig *Emu* ‘for the Service of Govt at Port Dalrymple in VD Land’. Nine of these convicts were from the *Baring*, and one of these was Alexander Wilson, confusingly now listed as serving a seven year service. This anomaly is explained in the flurry of correspondence between the Colonial Secretary and Lieutenant Governor Davey relating to the transfer of the *Baring* convicts per the *Emu*, is a postscript to a memo dated 28 October 1815.

In the accompanying list of Mechanics and Labourers I have been obliged to give the Sentences of Transportation of Several of them from the Muster Rolls taken here on their arrival in consequence of the Indents not having arrived from H.M Ministers – These Sentences are not of course to be considered altogether correct – the others from the Indents are strictly correct.<sup>16</sup>

Alexander Wilson, a brickmaker by trade, was mustered at Port Dalrymple in 1816 and 1821. Meanwhile, in July 1819, his appointment as a Constable, ‘to do Duty at George Town’ was approved and confirmed.<sup>17</sup> Sarah was mustered at Port Dalrymple in 1821 and again in 1823, when she was listed as the wife of Alexander Willson [sic].<sup>18</sup> By this time their two children had been born - Sarah on 4 September 1819 at George Town, and Walter on 27 January 1823 at Launceston.<sup>19</sup>

1779 4 November 1819	11 September 1819	Sarah	Alexander Sarah	Wilson	George Town Port Dalrymple	John Paul Chaplain
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30 <sup>th</sup> April No. 203	27 <sup>th</sup> January 1823	Walter	Alexander Sarah	Wilson	Launceston	John Paul
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It is possible that son Walter was the subject of the death of a six-month old child, registered at Hobart in September 1823.<sup>20</sup>

Walter W Wilson	20 <sup>th</sup> August	1823	6 months	See	Wm. Derrid
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The first recorded indication of trouble in the Wilson marriage is an 1822 entry in Alexander Wilson’s conduct sheet. On 29 November he was had up for beating his wife and bound over to keep the peace. Sarah would have been heavily pregnant at the time with their second child.<sup>21</sup> She had presented Alexander with a son by the time her husband was charged on 11 March 1823 with being disorderly and having threatened to take the life of his wife on the previous Saturday night. His plea of ‘not guilty’ was ignored and he was bound over to keep the peace towards his wife for six months. Constable John Gardener was one of the witnesses. The testimony of the second witness reveals that the Wilsons were living apart, due perhaps to Alexander having to spend time away on his stockkeeping duties.

Constable Gardener sworn saith - on Saturday evening between 8 and nine o'clock I was applied to by Walter Snow to take a man away that was disorderly and abusing Sarah Wilson. I went with him and saw Alexr Wilson near Mr Stratton's House. His wife was about thirty yards distant; he was making a great noise; I heard him distinctly say that he would kill her if he came upon her; I am sure he addressed that language to his wife. I took him prisoner and he then shammed drunkenness. I put him in jail and about eleven o'clock at night. He made his escape out of the jail yard; I followed him and knocked him down; he then felt in his pockets and exclaimed Oh that I had my knife with me; I then conducted him back again to jail.

Walter Snow sworn saith - on Saturday evening last the prisoner Alexr Wilson came to my house where his wife Sarah Wilson has lived at his own request since her confinement about 2 months ago. He was intoxicated; he used the most abusive language to his wife and threatened to murder her if he could come nigh her. I then went away to procure a constable who took him into Custody, he has frequently been at my house to see his children and has never been denied access to his wife when sober, it is within my knowledge that he has been employed by Mr. Gibbs [sic] as stockkeeper since his wife resided with me.<sup>22</sup>

In fact, it was probably David Gibson, settler and landholder, who was Alexander's employer.<sup>23</sup> In 1818 a number of sheep had been stolen from David Gibson's flock. Walter Snow, stockkeeper to Mr. Gibson, gave evidence at the trial.<sup>24</sup>

It was not until 1826 that Sarah herself again came to the attention of the authorities.<sup>25</sup> On 3 January she was charged for assaulting Mrs. Beard (possibly Mary Beard, née Ushard [sic] and wife of Richard Beard, the latter being named in 1820 as the father of Charles Cox Beard, the son of Sarah Ann Cox, another *Friendship* woman) for which she was acquitted but still given an admonishment. Later that year, on 14 November, she faced the Magistrate on a charge of being drunk and fighting in the streets of Launceston, for which she was bound over to keep the peace for six months. It was a year later, on 12 November 1827, as the 'Wife of A. Wilson', she was sent to the Gaol for fourteen days for being drunk and disorderly in the street. She had only just served this sentence when, on 14 January 1828, she was sent to the Hobart Female Factory for twelve months. This time her offence was being drunk, assaulting the Constables in the execution of their duty, and abusing the Reverend Mr. Norman.<sup>26</sup>

32 Plummer Sarah Wellington and Life Jan<sup>y</sup> 3/1826/ W Snow/ Assaulting Mrs Beard Acquitted & admonished £100.  
 or Wilson Friendship  
 Nov<sup>r</sup> 14/26 Being drunk & Fighting Beard over to keep the Peace for 3 months £100 - Nov<sup>r</sup> 12/27 Wife of A Wilson/ Being drunk & disorderly - To be conf<sup>d</sup> in Jail 14 Days £100.  
 Jan<sup>y</sup> 14/28 Being drunk & assaulting the Constables & abusing Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr Norman - To be sent to the Factory for 12 Months £100.

Meanwhile Alexander had chalked up further transgressions. In November 1824, October 1827 and September 1828 he was charged with being drunk and disorderly, which earned him a fine of 5/- for each occasion. About the same time as his wife had completed her year in the Factory, on 16 January 1829 Alexander was charged and found guilty of assaulting one Mary Shadwell, and ordered to keep the peace for six months. The last three items on his charge sheet were June 1829, being disorderly, charge dismissed; September 1831, drunkenness, fined 5/-; and November 1832, drunk, fined 5/-.<sup>27</sup>

Wilson Alexander Emu & Being M.S. Nov<sup>r</sup> 29/1822 Beating his wife - Bound over to keep the peace £100 - Nov<sup>r</sup> 29/24 Being drunk & disorderly - Fined 5/ £100 - Oct<sup>r</sup> 9/27 Being drunk & disorderly - Fined 5/ £100 - Sept<sup>r</sup> 18/28 Being drunk - Fined 5/ £100 - Jan<sup>y</sup> 16/29 Assaulting Nancy Shadwell - To be bound over to keep the Peace for 6 months W.B. - Sept<sup>r</sup> 15/31 Drunkenness - Fined 5/ £100 - June 13/29 Being disorderly - Charge dismissed £100 - Nov<sup>r</sup> 26/32 Drunk - Fined 5/ £100

Sarah was again in trouble in June 1829 when, on the word of Mrs. Palmer, she was charged on 9 June of having been drunk and disorderly in the streets the previous evening. This time she was sent to the Cascades House of Correction at Hobart, where she was to contemplate her future in the crime class. On her release she was assigned to Mr. Stokell (probably George Stokell, merchant and landholder) but in December 1829 she left his service and returned to the House of Correction. On being brought up for absconding, she claimed that she had done so because she had been told that 'it was a bad place'. She was reprimanded, and because Mr. Stokell refused to take her back, she was kept at Cascades, but this time in the assignable class. Her next assignment was with the Pragnall [sic] family. Her master may have been Thomas Pragnell, licensee of the Half-way House, at Black-Snake, Glenorchy. Again the situation was not to Sarah's liking and on 10 May 1830 she was charged with insolence to her mistress, but got off with a reprimand, and the Pragnells took her back. But not for long. By August they had had enough of her repeated drunkenness and insolence and, on 19 August Magistrate Edward Dumaresq ordered her back to the Cascades' crime class for three months. Clearly assignment did not suit Sarah, and the Easton family fared no better than her previous masters. On 12 April 1831 she was sent back to the crime class for a month for having been absent from her service without leave and for being abusive to her master and mistress. The litany of offences concludes with two incidences of drunk and disorderly conduct. Recorded as 'ux Wilson' on 29 September 1834 she was sentenced to six days in the cell, and on 7 April 1837 she was ordered to spend one month at the wash tub. Evidently she was as mutinous on shore as she had been on at sea.<sup>28</sup>

32 Plummer Sarah  
 P. Friendship of D of Wellington  
 Esq. Devon. March 1817 wife

April 22. 1818 Disobey the Order of M<sup>r</sup>. Humphrey her Master -- set<sup>t</sup> Cell on 13 & 10. for one Month (P.A.M.)  
 Nov 14 1820. Drunk & fighting in the streets of Lunenburg -- Bound over to keep the peace for 6 Mo. (P.A.M.)  
 Nov 12. 1827. We Alex<sup>r</sup>. Wilson / 10 & dis<sup>t</sup> in the street -- To be cast<sup>t</sup> in Parl 14 days (P.A.M.)  
 Jan<sup>r</sup> 14. 1828. We Wilson / Drunk against the Constable in the street Duty & abusing the Res<sup>t</sup>.  
 M<sup>r</sup>. Norman yet<sup>t</sup> - to be sent to the Jail for 12 Months / P.A.M. / June 9. 1829. M<sup>r</sup>. Palmer / Dr  
 dis<sup>t</sup> in the streets last night. C. Clap H<sup>o</sup>. of Carcer (P.S.) Dec. 10. 1829. Hobart, Having left her services  
 & come to the House of Correction she is brought up this morning but exhibiting conviction & pleading in excuse that  
 she was told it was a bad place she is Ref<sup>d</sup> (P.S.) Same date her Master refusing to take her back she is sent  
 to the H<sup>o</sup>. of Correction assignable (P.S.) May 10. 1830. Pragnall, assistance to her mistress. Ref<sup>d</sup>. 6. Dumassey (Aug 14 1830  
 Pragnall / repeatedly Drunk & violent C. Clap H<sup>o</sup>. of Correction (6. Dumassey) April 12. 1831. Hobart / absent  
 from her services without leave & being abusive to her master Smith's - C. Clap one month (P.S.) Sept. 29. 1831. We  
 Wilson / Drunk and dis<sup>t</sup> in the street, Cell 6 days (P.S.) April 7. 1832. We Wilson / Drunk. Wash. Jail 1 Month (P.S.)  
 Conditional Pardon No 2317 27<sup>th</sup> January 1840. Hobart 21/4/40

Throughout all this it seems that Sarah and Alexander remained, at least nominally, as husband and wife, because for the 1832 muster Sarah is described as being assigned to her husband.<sup>29</sup> But the following rather strange December 1833 newspaper item, if indeed it concerns 'our' Sarah Plummer, suggests some further discord in their relationship.<sup>30</sup>

**Robert Hartless, holding a ticket-of-leave, for harbouring Sarah Plummer in a but, at Glenarchy, with representing himself to be a free man, and with falsely stating to the constable, that the woman had left the but, was admonished and discharged -- it appearing to have originated in a mistake.**

The last definite 'sighting' of Alexander Wilson is his conduct record entry of November 1832. He may have been the Alexander Wilson, one of a group of employees of John Fogarty, neighbour of Peter Lette of Carramore, whose sheep were slaughtered at in March 1833. Perhaps he was the Alexander Wilson fined 5/- for drunkenness on 28 November 1834. Could he have been the Alexander Wilson, co-partner of John McCracken, Stonemasons, who died in June 1841? <sup>31</sup> Or was he the Alexander Wilson who died on 18 November 1855, in the district of Tasman's Peninsula? <sup>32</sup>

219	18th Nov 1832	Alexander Wilson	Male	Y <sup>o</sup>	Laborer	Bronchitis	W. Leccombe, P.S. Impression May	31 Dec 1832	P. Smyth
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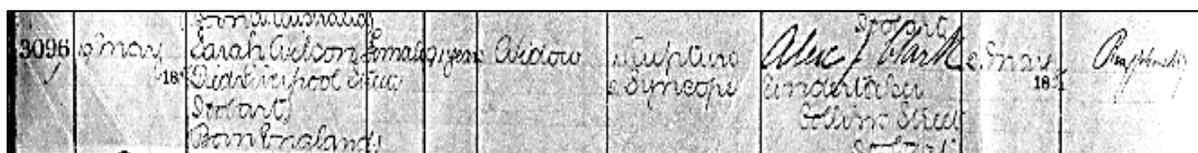
Around 1827 Sarah had made application for a pardon. At that time she had held a ticket of leave for about a year and a half and in support of her application it was noted that she had been:

Extremely well conducted from the time of her marriage more than eight years and a half.<sup>33</sup>

But her subsequent poor conduct record put paid to any early pardon and, indeed, if she had held a ticket of leave it was probably forfeited because it was not until 1838 that Sarah Plummer was granted a ticket.<sup>34</sup> She was issued with a conditional pardon in January 1840, but it was not until 1846, with the announcement in *The Cornwall Chronicle* of 25 April that the condition of her pardon had been approved by Her Majesty.<sup>35</sup> Sarah had been in the colony for just over twenty-eight years and was now in her mid-fifties. Once armed with her pardon, did she mend her ways? Or was she one of the woman by the name of Sarah Wilson who found themselves in trouble with the law, mainly for drunkenness and vagrancy? It is impossible to definitely identify any of them as 'our' Sarah Wilson.

It is possible, however, that Sarah lived to her nineties, if she was the Sarah Wilson who had spent nearly two months in the Hobart Invalid Depot in April and May 1880 before being discharged to the Benevolent Society

and/or the Sarah Wilson who died at Hobart on 19 May 1886, and was buried in the Congregational Church cemetery.<sup>36</sup>



**WILSON, Sarah**  
**D: 19 May 1886 - 91yrs - HOBART DAVEY ST CONGREGATIONAL - HOBART - HOBART - H009/00000**

Daughter Sarah Wilson was counted in the 1827 Tasmanian Muster of Children. She was by then eight years old. She had not received any formal education and was not attending school. She was living at Launceston, but her mother, Sarah Plummer, was described as 'a prisoner; Bad in the factory'.<sup>37</sup> Young Sarah's fate is at present unknown.<sup>38</sup>

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> FindmyPast (FMP), England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Correspondence and Warrants. *Exeter Flying Post*, 3 Apr 1817, p.4.

<sup>2</sup> FMP, England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Prison Registers.

<sup>3</sup> FMP, England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Correspondence and Warrants.

<sup>4</sup> Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Friendship 1818, [https://jenwillets.com/convict\\_ship\\_friendship\\_1818.htm](https://jenwillets.com/convict_ship_friendship_1818.htm).

<sup>5</sup> Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO), Assignment List, CON13-1-1 image 112.

<sup>6</sup> Adolarius William Henry Humphrey (1782-1829), <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/humphrey-adolarius-william-henry-2212>.

<sup>7</sup> TAHO, Conduct Register, CON40/1/7 image 178.

<sup>8</sup> TAHO, Launceston marriages 1819, RGD36/1/1 no 331.

<sup>9</sup> *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* ([www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org), version 8.0, 15 May 2018), October 1814, trial of ALEXANDER WILSON (t18141026-61).

<sup>10</sup> Sebastian Pullen, Alexander Wilson – Theft: grand larceny, Theft: receiving, *Old Bailey Proceedings Online* ([www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org), version 8.0, 15 May 2018), September 1810, trial of SEBASTIAN PULLEN ALEXANDER WILSON (t18100919-102).

<sup>11</sup> *Evening Mail*, 7 Nov 1814, p.2.

<sup>12</sup> FMP, England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935, Prison Registers. Ancestry, UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1834, Retribution, Register 1802-1834.

<sup>13</sup> Ancestry, UK, Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books, 1802-1834, Retribution, Index, 1803-1836.

<sup>14</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842, Bound Indentures, 1814-1818.

<sup>15</sup> Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Baring 1815, [https://jenwillets.com/convict\\_ship\\_baring\\_1815.htm](https://jenwillets.com/convict_ship_baring_1815.htm). Convict Records, <https://convictrecords.com.au/ships/baring/1815>.

<sup>16</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, Copies of Letters Sent Within the Colony, 1814-1827.

<sup>17</sup> Ancestry, New South Wales, Australia, Settler and Convict Lists, 1787-1834. *The Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter*, 10 Jul 1819, p.1.

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<sup>23</sup> Irene Schaffer, Extracts, Mistress of "Pleasant Banks" - Mrs Elizabeth Gibson, Irene Schaffer's Website, <http://www.tasfamily.net.au/~schaffer/index.php?file=kop60.php>.

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<sup>30</sup> *The Tasmanian*, 13 Dec 1833, p.8. There was another convict by the name of Sarah Plummer, but she did not arrive in Tasmania until 1849, on the *Stately* – FCRC, Female Convicts in Van Diemen's Land database, Convict ID: 11757.

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<sup>35</sup> *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 8 Feb 1840, p.4. *The Cornwall Chronicle*, 25 April 1846, p.324.

<sup>36</sup> Ancestry, Tasmania, Reports of Crime, 1861-1883, 1880, Return of Paupers discharged from the Invalid Depots, Tasmania.

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<sup>38</sup> It is suggested that Sarah Wilson married Henry Pitchers on 28 March 1861, Ancestry Family Tree, Pitcher Family Tree, <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/person/tree/26116276/person/5032005699/facts/>. A check on the marriage registration shows that this Sarah Wilson was a widow.



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